

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • July 2011

What's new?

Can you believe the year is already half over? Time surely does fly. I hope you all have had a lovely first half of the year, and are having a great start to your summer.

There are quite a few opportunities to get involved at Deer Flat, both indoors and outdoors, and we always appreciate and enjoy working with you.

In wildlife news, the bald eagle chicks have fledged from the nest along the trail near the Visitor Center. Also, the osprey chicks are growing bigger each day and will be testing out their wings soon. You can watch them from anywhere by clicking

<http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>.



Photo courtesy of Addison Mohler, FWS

Cheers!

Thank you to the Visitor Center hosts who have helped run the Visitor Center and answer folks questions on busy summer Saturdays here at the Refuge. Additionally, thank you to David Hall and Micki Kawakami for helping connect kids with nature this past month with our Biodiversity Basics Day Camp. And lastly, thank you Jill & Joe Iuculano for helping out with outreach festivals this year and being wonderful RV volunteers. Thanks all!

Around the water cooler...

Planning Update Three and Preliminary Draft Alternatives of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan were released Memorial Day Weekend. Please take a look at them at

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html>

Take advantage of the 60-day comment period (comments accepted through July 29) to provide your input and suggestions. Open houses at the Visitor Center will be held Friday, July 8 from Noon-3pm and 6pm-9pm and Saturday, July 9 from 10am-3pm for you to learn more about the plans, ask questions, and share your thoughts. If you are interested in being on the CCP mailing list, please contact the Refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov.

Master Naturalist Program

Do you enjoy studying and learning about wildlife, plants, geology, ecology, and other local conservation topics? Then think about becoming an Idaho Master Naturalist! The Lizard Butte chapter is just starting up and will have its first classes this fall! Learn about Idaho's natural environment through guest lectures and field trips, and apply that knowledge through conservation-based service projects. Classes will be offered at the Refuge Visitor Center. For more information, please contact Kathleen Cookman at kasey50@clearwire.net.



Photo courtesy of Bob Faller



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Day Camp Helpers (2-3 volunteers)

Dates: Desert Detectives Day Camp July 11-15, 8:30am-12:30pm

Help assist Claire in running our summer day camp series for kids! A volunteer is needed all week to help run the camp and one is needed on Wednesday, July 13 to help gather supplies, take photos, chaperone students, etc. **Deadline to Register: ASAP**

Visitor Center Host (8-10 volunteers per month)

Dates and Times: Saturdays in July-September, 10:00am-4:00pm

On Saturdays, the Visitor Center is open thanks to visitor center host volunteers. If you enjoy interacting with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, then this might be the opportunity for you! Training is provided. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Weed Warrior Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Weekdays throughout July, 8:00am-4:00pm

If you have an open weekday or two within the next few weeks, and are itching to get outside, ultimate weed warrior and volunteer Steve Kehoe is looking for a few people to help him remove noxious shrub and weed hotspots around the Refuge. Help improve the wildlife habitat at the Refuge by removing noxious—and obnoxious—plants. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Reading at the Refuge (1-2 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (10:00am) and Wednesdays (2:00pm) of the month

A free wildlife focused story telling hour for pre-schoolers. Volunteers can select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the storytelling and craftmaking. **Deadline to register: Ongoing.**

Volunteer Orientation

Have you never been to a volunteer orientation? Do you want a refresher? Or do you know someone who is interested in signing up to volunteer at the Refuge? Then mark your calendar for August 18 at 7 PM and join Cody and Susan for a volunteer orientation. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact cody_dix@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator